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For immediate release

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## Perpich senior in media arts win national recognition in photography

Michael Hansen, an East St. Paul resident and a senior in media arts at Perpich Arts High School, has received a top award in the National YoungArts 2015 Competition.

Michael was named a photography finalist and invited to the National YoungArts Week in January for final determination of awards (Level 3, \$1000; Level 2, \$1500; Level 1, \$3000; Silver, \$5000,; Gold, \$10,000). Only 10 students are finalists in the national level of the photography discipline.

He was among more than 11,000 student applicants. Of those, only 786 YoungArts winners were named in the visual, literary, design and performing arts. These young artists represent some of the nation's very best in cinematic arts, dance, design arts, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice and writing.

As a national finalist, Michael will receive a certificate, medallion, letter of recommendation and the invitation to National YoungArts Week in January.

The National YoungArts Foundation (formerly known as the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts) was established in 1981 to identify and support the next generation of artists and to contribute to the cultural vitality of the nation by investing in the artistic development of talented young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts.

With the guidance of YoungArts artistic advisers Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Bill T. Jones and others, YoungArts provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities throughout their careers.

Perpich Arts High School, located in Golden Valley, is an innovative, arts-based program that serves 11th- and 12-grade students from throughout Minnesota. It has programs in dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theater and visual arts and a demanding academic curriculum. It is part of Perpich Center for Arts Education, a state agency created in 1985 by the state legislature to advance K-12 education by teaching in and through the arts.

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